

business, Johnson's Corner, which has been named as one of the top ten best places in the world to eat breakfast, and was the only United States restaurant to be named. Founded by Joe Johnson in 1953 along Interstate 25 before it was an interstate, it is now run by his widow, Virginia, and stepson, Chauncey Taylor.

What distinguishes Johnson's Corner from all the rest? According to Travel & Leisure magazine, it's the restaurant's cinnamon rolls. Today, I wish to confirm that the "World Famous Cinnamon Rolls" are the best and deserve recognition as does the restaurant business itself.

A way station for travelers driving the interstate highway, this old-fashioned, 24-hour truck stop lit up with neon signs, serves up cinnamon rolls and other good food on formica-topped tables in a family atmosphere. The nearly 50-year old business maintains a great deal of pride in its service to a clientele of farmers, truckers, cowboys, bikers, and tourists. In addition, its location and hospitality have proven to be a good place for Members of Congress and other elected officials to hold town meetings.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor the Johnson family and their employees at Johnson's Corner. I hold them up to the House and to all Americans, as a fine example of the best of America's businesses. They exemplify the industrious spirit and can-do attitude that have made America great.

CONGRATULATING THE SIKH NATION ON ITS 300th BAISAKHI DAY SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE SIKHS

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, the Sikh Nation will celebrate its 300th Baisakhi Day. This is a major milestone for the Sikhs of America and the world, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this occasion.

More than 40,000 Sikhs came to Washington, D.C. this past weekend to celebrate with a march organized by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, who is a friend of many of ours. The march was a huge success, and I would like to congratulate Dr. Aulakh and everyone who was involved in this very successful event. Through their hard work one of the largest groups that Washington has seen in a long time showed up to celebrate the Sikh heritage and declare the need for a free and independent Khalistan.

There are about 500,000 Sikhs in the United States. They are part of a vibrant 22-million strong Sikh community around the world. They have added to America in many different fields of endeavor. Here the Sikhs live in freedom and prosperity. Yet in their homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, they suffer under the brutal tyranny of the Indian government. Under this brutal policy, the Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Thousands more are held in Indian jails, most without charge or trial.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion. It is not part of any other religion, though it does have some beliefs that are also held by other religions. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs have been victims of the Hindu extremists who dominate Indian life. Like Christians and Muslims, Sikhs are religiously and culturally distinct from Hindu India.

The Sikhs have a heritage of self-rule. They ruled Punjab independently from 1765 to 1849. No representative of the Sikh people has ever signed the constitution of India, 51 years after India became independent. In October 1987, Khalistan declared itself independent from India, much as we declared our own independence in 1776. They created the Council of Khalistan, headed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, to serve as the government pro tempore and lead the peaceful struggle for independence.

What we know as India never existed before the British created it. Prior to the British conquest of South Asia, the region had many countries which ruled themselves. Just as the Soviet Union's multiethnic empire collapsed, so must India's. It is inevitable. Given India's nuclear weapons and missile development, the world must remain alert to make certain that South Asia does not become another Balkan Peninsula full of Bosnias and Kosovos. The best way to do that is to work for peaceful solutions to the region's ethnic and religious violence.

In previous Congresses, I have sponsored a resolution calling for a free and fair plebiscite under international supervision to achieve a peaceful solution to the issue of independence for Khalistan. I urge the same also for Kashmir, where it was promised by India in 1947, for Nagaland, and for all the states and regions where there are independence movements. This is the democratic way to settle these issues, and India claims to be a democracy. Let the world see Indian democracy in action by scheduling these plebiscites now. If it is good enough for the people of Puerto Rico and Quebec, it is good enough for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the rest of South Asia.

In addition to calling for a plebiscite, we should end U.S. aid to India until basic human rights can be freely exercised by all people under India's rule and we should declare India a violator of religious liberty for the killings of Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and others, then impose the sanctions that this status brings. If the situation changes, the sanctions can and should be lifted.

Congratulations again to the Sikhs on their 300th anniversary. May this occasion mark not just an anniversary, but a new birth of freedom in South Asia.

REPORT FROM MUNCIE, INDIANA—HOOSIER HEROES

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes".

There is a genuine Hoosier Hero in Muncie, Indiana. He is Craig Miller, who I am proud to say is a constituent of mine and has made our community a better place to live.

Craig has made Muncie a better place through his voluntary efforts. He is on the Board of the Indiana Red Cross; in fact, he spent so much time on others needs, they made him, "Volunteer of the Year for 1997", because of his efforts on behalf of the less fortunate. Craig also serves on the Board of the Boys' and Girls' Club in Muncie.

His work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. Craig doesn't do it for the pay which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good work for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Craig Miller deserves the gratitude of his city, state, and nation and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SHERLLYNN RUSSO

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a special person, Ms. Sherlynn Russo. This evening she is being honored as one of the Clinton Township Goodfellows of the Year recipients for 1997-1998 by community members and friends.

The members of the Clinton Township Goodfellows have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of the community for many years. Their goal is to aid the public in ways that other charities and the government could not. For the past five years, Sherlynn has served in various Board positions for the Goodfellows. She has done particularly commendable work on behalf of children. She has co-chaired the Christmas Toy Committee for the past two years providing joy to many children who otherwise might not have had a merry Christmas.

Sherlynn is employed by the General Motors Corporation as a Communications Manager, but still finds the time to volunteer in many community organizations. She is an Executive Advisor for Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan, the President of the Board of Directors of her home owners association and Financial Secretary for the G.M. Women's Club.

The Clinton Township Goodfellows know that they can count on Sherlynn as they honor her this evening. I would like to congratulate Sherlynn Russo as she celebrates